

REMARKS

Claims 1-47 are pending in the application.

Claims 14-20 and 39-45 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-5, 8-11, 13, 21, 23-34, 38 and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sheridan (US 5,760,917). Claims 6, 7, 12, and 35-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sheridan in view of Buhr et al. (US 6,274,299). Claims 22 and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sheridan.

Sheridan relates to a system and method by which image signals corresponding to hardcopy photographs, can be readily distributed to third parties with specified access rights as desired by a user, and by which the specified third parties receive automatic notification of granted access rights.

Buhr relates to a method of electronically processing images formed from color negative films especially suitable for loading into one-time-use cameras and intended to create images for scanning, electronic manipulation, and reversion to a viewable form.

For the rejection of claims 6, 7, 12 and 35-37, Applicant submits that there is no suggestion or motivation to combine the references. The Examiner concedes that Sheridan does not teach applying high definition image processing techniques to the digital images. The Examiner cites the teaching of red-eye correction of Buhr as high definition image processing and asserts that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Buhr's red-eye correction into the system of Sheridan. The proffered reason to combine the

references is that Buhr's high definition image processing would enable Sheridan's users to view/edit a down-scaled image and send associated viewing parameters for further processing on the original high resolution images. However, Applicant submits that Sheridan already provides the ability to view/edit a down-scaled image and send associated viewing parameters for further processing on the original high resolution images, and thus the Examiner's reason for combining the references is deficient. Moreover, there is no teaching, suggestion or motivation to make the specific modification of adding Buhr's red-eye correction to Sheridan's system. Therefore, Applicant submits that claims 6 and 7 are allowable over the prior art.

Applicant submits that claims 12 and 35-37 are allowable for analogous reasons to those for claims 6 and 7.

With regard to the rejection of claims 1-5, 8-11, 13, 21, 23-34, 38 and 46, to expedite prosecution of this case, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 23 and 25 to include the limitations of claims 4 and 6, 33 and 35. Applicant submits that claims 1-5, 8-11, 13, 21, 23-34, 38 and 46 are allowable for the above-presented reasons relating to claims 6 and 35. Claims 22 and 47 are patentable based on their dependency. Applicants adds claim 48 to describe features of the invention more generally.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No.: 09/919,617

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

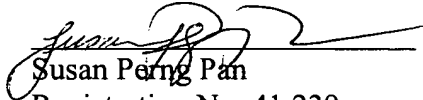
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